

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend Claims 1 and 2, cancel claims 8, 9, 19-30 and 33-74, and add new claims 78-82. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1           1 (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid encoding an Sitosterolemia Susceptibility Gene (SSG) ATP-binding cassette (ABC) family sterol transporter polypeptide,  
2       said polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 75% identical to the full-  
3       length of an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, wherein said nucleic acid  
4       hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions comprising 50% formamide, 5x SSC, 1%  
5       SDS at 65°C and wash conditions of 0.2x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C to a nucleic acid comprising a  
6       nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4, and wherein said amino acid sequence  
7       comprises an ATP-binding cassette (ABC) family sterol transporter.  
8

1           2 (currently amended): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide  
2       specifically binds to polyclonal antibodies generated against a polypeptide that comprises an  
3       amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID  
4       NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6.

1           3 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide  
2       comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1           4 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide forms a dimer  
2       with a second ABC polypeptide, and wherein said dimer exhibits sterol transport activity.

1           5 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 4, wherein said dimer is a heterodimer.

1           6 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 4, wherein said sterol is cholesterol.

1           7 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein said second ABC  
2 polypeptide is ATP-Binding Cassette 8 (ABC8).

1           8-9 (canceled).

1           10 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid  
2 comprises a nucleotide sequence at least 80% identical to the full-length of a sequence as set  
3 forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

1           11 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid  
2 comprises a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

12 (canceled)

1           13 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is from a  
2 mouse or a human.

1           14 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is expressed  
2 in the intestine or in the liver in the presence of an LXR agonist.

1           15 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is expressed  
2 in a tissue selected from the group consisting of liver, jejunum, ileum, and duodenum.

16 (canceled)

1           17 (original): An expression cassette comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1  
2 operably linked to a promoter.

1           18 (original): An isolated cell comprising the expression cassette of claim 17.

19-30 (canceled).

1           31. (original) A method of making an SSG polypeptide, the method comprising:

2                             (i) introducing a nucleic acid of claim 1 into a host cell or cellular extract; and  
3                             (ii) incubating said host cell or cellular extract under conditions such that said  
4 SSG polypeptide is expressed in the host cell or cellular extract.

1                             32. (original) The method of claim 31, further comprising recovering the SSG  
2 polypeptide from the host cell or cellular extract.

33-75 (canceled)

1                             76 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said amino acid  
2 sequence is at least about 90% identical to said amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1                             77 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said amino acid  
2 sequence is at least about 95% identical to said amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1                             78 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is at  
2 least about 80% identical to said amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1                             79 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is at  
2 least about 85% identical to said amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1                             80 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a  
2 nucleotide sequence at least 85% identical to the full-length of a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID  
3 NO:4.

1                             81 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a  
2 nucleotide sequence at least 90% identical to the full-length of a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID  
3 NO:4.

1               82 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a  
2 nucleotide sequence at least 95% identical to the full-length of a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID  
3 NO:4.

1               83 (new): An isolated nucleic acid encoding an ATP-binding cassette (ABC)  
2 family sterol transporter polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid  
3 sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1               84 (new): An isolated nucleic acid encoding an ATP-binding cassette (ABC)  
2 family sterol transporter polypeptide, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence  
3 as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.